

625 SOUTH SIXTH STREET (House)

Jeannette

Westmoreland County

Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6137

HABS

PA

65-JEAN,

41-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey

National Park Service

Department of the Interior

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ADDENDUM TO:  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### 625 SOUTH SIXTH STREET (HOUSE)

HABS No. PA-6137

- LOCATION: 625 South Sixth Street, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
- SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as "The Glass City" early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

#### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This parcel was part of the land left unsold during H. Sellers McKee's involvement in Jeannette. National Glass Company first purchased the parcel in 1899. They also bought the McKee Bros. glass works. After National Glass went bankrupt, this and other property in the neighborhood came under the ownership of the succeeding McKee Glass Company's president A.J. Smith. He sold the vacant land to neighboring Hempfield Township residents Daniel and Ida May Cloherty in 1916, who later sold the lot to Sophia Kwiatkowska, acting for her minor son Carl Pienody, in 1925.

Before the present owner bought the building in the 1940s, Sophia Kwiatkowska (who lived two houses away at No. 629) ran the small general store on the ground floor. Tenants, clerk Edward Topper and his wife Emma, are listed as living above the store in 1928, but later Sophie's son Carl, who worked at McKee Glass, lived upstairs with his wife Martha and their two children. In 1944, Thomas and Betty DeCaro purchased the building and moved over from Division Avenue with their two young sons. Betty had emigrated from Italy to Jeannette. She met her future husband Thomas in Jeannette, and they were married in the neighborhood Ascension Church (see HABS No. PA-6092). Thomas was employed at the Woolworth Co. in Greensburg. The DeCaros filled-in the storefront and renovated the interior to use the whole building as a single house. Mrs. DeCaro still resides in the house.

#### PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

This 1926 brick-veneered house was the last residential building constructed in the neighborhood. The simple rectangular plan structure is three bays wide on the second floor and has a small enclosed porch to the rear. The hipped roof shape is a break with

the dominant gable front form and was found on four other houses in the neighborhood dating from as early as 1915. Here a single hipped dormer projects toward the street. The building was originally built to have a store on the ground floor with living space above. A full-width front porch was added about 1980.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

*Insurance Maps of Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.* New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1925, 1950.

Deed Books. Recorder of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 291/14, 468/386, 481/461, 554/454, 555/153, 590/536, 806/220, 935/560, 935/562, 1173/456.

City Directories, 1897, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1948, 1960.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Interview, Betty DeCaro, resident, 625 South Sixth Street Extension, August 9, 1990.

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.